



LCDR William Upham takes well water samples near La Plane, Haiti.



Upham (left) and **HM2 Lori Pate (right)**, patch up a young boy's cuts and bruises during a vaccination mission near Baptist Mission.



Upham (left), **HN Melodi Gimm (left center)** and **HA Ana Huezescobar (right center)**, vaccinate a young mother and baby.

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE BATTLES HAITI'S BIGGEST CHALLENGES

By **JOSN Jose Blanco**

One of the greatest battles that Fleet Hospital Five has been silently waging, has been the fight to preserve a suitable quality of life for forward deployed personnel in Haiti, and assist in the efforts made for improving the quality of life for the Haitian people. In a country with few workable resources and an epidemic of diseases, the challenges being faced are monumental, but the people facing those challenges are making a monumental difference for thousands of young children in the Port-au-Prince area.

Armed with box loads of syringes and vaccines, the Preventive Medicine team of Fleet Hospital Five has made an ongoing effort to reach the most people. They do this by going into the most densely populated neighborhoods, in a congested city of over 4 million residents. After only two months in Haiti,

the Preventive Medicine team has over 5,219 vaccinations to over 1,363 Haitian families.

"Vaccination's are extremely important to our mission," said LCDR William Upham, Environmental Health Officer, FH5. "We are providing the young children with vaccinations that can prevent life threatening diseases such as polio, measles and diphtheria. With a high number of vaccinations already completed, our efforts will certainly have a lasting impact on the future population in this city."

In the coming months, Preventive Medicine will continue to preform a wide variety of operational support projects at Camp Fairwinds and Camp Kinzer. These projects include: food inspections, vector control, well sampling and the management of the command's immunization programs. Additionally, Preventive Medicine is providing community health education classes that focus on the treatment of drinking water, personal hygiene and sanitation for the local population.